

additional BANISTER material

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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

December 15, 1966

STATEMENT OF: DAVID F. LEWIS, JR. WM, 26 years
2632 Cleveland Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana

Business phone 522-9701 or 525-4201

I have never previously been interviewed by the FBI
or any other agency on this matter.

During the months of January, 1961, through January,
1962, I was employed by Guy Banister & Associates as a private
investigator. In the late summer of 1963 I was reporting to
the Louisiana State Employment Office, at 601 Camp Street seeking
steady employment. At this time all I had was odd jobs from
time to time. Several times I stopped by Guy Banister's Office
in the Newman Building to see if he had any leg work to be done.
On one occasion I stopped by Banister's Office, before going
into the office, I stopped by Mancuso's Restaurant which is
on the corner of Banister's Office. I noticed Sergio Achacio,
Carlos, and a fellow whom I was introduced to by Carlos as
Lee Harvey in the restaurant. It has now been determined by
me through photographs that this man was Lee Harvey Oswald.
Plus the time when I was at home when Jack Ruby killed Lee
Oswald and it came on T.V. and I said I had seen that man
before. When I first seen Lee Oswald in the restaurant, he
didn't talk much, but he seemed to be anxious about getting on
his way. Oswald appeared to be highly nervous man with
boundless energy. Carlos, Sergio and Lee Oswald were involved
in some business which dealt with Cuba. It appeared to me that
this was a business that was more or less a racket to acquire
funds.

On this occasion Oswald was dressed in dark slacks, light blue sport shirt, short sleeves. Carlos whose last name I don't know is a well dressed man, black hair, black eyes, approximately 5'11" to 6' tall, very neat would assumed he was a business man. His approximate age would be late 20's or early 30's. He was wearing a light weight suit either black or dark blue, moustache, clean shaved, and had an accent but was not pronounced as Achaca's accent, appeared to be highly educated might be considered as a high class Spaniard as was Achaca.

Achaca Smith was dressed in a sport coat, white shirt and tie, very neat, short and stocky, black hair, dark complexion, talked with a very thick accent. Achaca Smith to me appeared to be the boss.

I had only seen Oswald about three or four times in the neighborhood of Lafayette and Camp Streets in the Newman Building.

A few days either before or after Mancuso's, I went into Banister's Office. I went in, they shut the door to the inner office as if highly confidential. In Banister's office was, Banister, Dave Ferrie, Achaca and a slim, sandy-haired young man. This man could have very well been Oswald. By the way, Louise Decker happened to be in the office at this time.

Another time I remember seeing Carlos ? , Achaca Smith and Dave Ferrie walking from Mancuso's Restaurant toward Banister's Office.

WITNESSES:


DAVID F. LEWIS, JR.

The following is a series of questions and answers which took place in the District Attorney's Office, December 15, 1966, between Det. Louis Ivon and David F. Lewis, Jr.: Questions are all by Louis Ivon:

Q. Approximately how many times have you seen Lee Harvey who you later identified as Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. No more than four times, each time in the Company of Carlos.

Q. The day that you first met him, were you introduced to him?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you hold conversation?

A. No, more or less, "I'm glad to meet you."

Q. Did you hear any of their conversation?

A. No, however, Carlos did have quite a few dealings with Banister, what they were, I don't know. Always closed door stuff. This other gentleman who appeared to be the manager or "boss" of the organization which Lee Harvey Oswald and Carlos were involved in also had dealings with Mr. Banister, but it was also unknown to me the nature of that business. At that time I was in and out of the office quite frequently, so Mr. Banister could have had some direct dealings with Oswald that I did not know about.

Q. Did you know a David Ferrie?

A. I did know David Ferrie.

Q. I am going to show you a photograph of a David Ferrie. Is it the same one you know?

A. It is, without a shadow of a doubt. I do know that he also had dealings with Mr. Banister but I was not informed of those dealings.

Q. I am going to show you another photograph. Do you know this man?

A. This man is Lee Harvey Oswald. The man I know as Lee Harvey

and the man I was introduced to in the lower portion of our building, is Mancuso Restaurant by Carlos.

Q. How do you know David Ferrie and where did you meet him?

A. I met David Ferrie in Mr. Banister's Office through Mr. Banister and on one occasion with Mr. Jack Martin and Mr. Joseph Newbrough and Louise Decker when we went to Mr. Ferrie's home in Metairie, Louisiana.

Q. What was the nature of your business with Dave Ferrie?

A. The nature of my business was - I was just along for the ride. It was Mr. Martin and Mr. Newbrough's business. I had taken a ride on a free afternoon. It had something to do with Eastern Airlines - something to do with license.

Q. Did you know the type of business that David Ferrie was in?

A. At that particular time -- No, I did not. I had seen Mr. Ferrie in Mr. Banister's office on several occasions after this, but the nature of their business was also unknown to me. My primary business was as a "leg man" for Mr. Banister.

Q. Have you ever seen Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie together?

A. Not to my knowledge -- No. They may have been, but I don't know. That is one thing that is really bugging me because I knew both Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie around the same time. Wait!!! David Ferrie, Carlos -- was that other man - Lee Harvey Oswald? Was it? -- There was another man there. It may have been - I am not sure because - I remember this particular day. I came in and as soon as I came into the office, I looked into Mr. Banister's office. David Ferrie, Mr. Banister at his desk, and this other gentleman back and to the left of David Ferrie was there, and that may have been Lee Harvey Oswald. Carlos was sitting in another chair in the office. But, as soon as they realized the office was no

longer vacant, they closed the door, I cannot honestly state that the man to the left of David Ferrie was Lee Harvey Oswald even though it may have been. They were talking about something. I am trying to think what few words I did hear in relation to it - - - Now, I am going to get off this and get onto David Ferrie. David Ferrie's business with Mr. Banister seemed to involve some string pulling involving the licensing of David Ferrie.

Q. How many times were you in David Ferrie's apartment?

A. I have only been to his home once.

Q. When you were over by his apartment on that occasion, who was there?

A. Two young men were at Ferrie's house when we arrived. One looked like Lee Oswald, he had sandy hair or blondish color hair, wearing sport clothing. The other fellow I don't know - he had black hair, stocky built, but had a darker complexion.

Q. You keep mentioning this name, Carlos. Does Carlos Corega mean anything to you?

A. It does sound familiar. It may be the same man I am speaking of. I will state this much, that if I saw Carlos today, I could definitely identify him.

Q. He would be the man that introduced you to Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. That is correct, beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Q. Right about now we are going to cut this interview. Is everything in this statement true and correct to the best of your knowledge?

A. That is correct.

Q. You are making this statement freely and voluntarily?

A. I am more than glad to give this statement.

Q. Since this meeting with Lee Harvey Oswald back in 1963, has anybody interviewed you, talked to you about Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. No.

Q. Then I gather this is the first time anybody has interviewed you as to your knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. This is correct.

Q. Is there any doubt in your mind that this Lee Harvey Oswald is the same man I showed you in a photograph earlier who you now say is Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. No doubt whatever. That is the same man.

Q. After leaving Banister's employment where did you work?

A. I was married April 4, 1962 - my son was born January 21, 1963.

First I worked at:

1. Gulf Oil Company (Houston) Credit Card Account Division, January 1962 through April 1962 and I returned to New Orleans in May 1962.
2. Floor & Wall Distributors on Edinburgh Street - August through September 1962 - 2 months.
3. Zales Jewelers - 928 Canal - Watch Repair - September 1962 through March 1963
4. Odd jobs from April to March 1964 and reported to Louisiana Employment Office.
5. Mike Persia - March 1964 - Parts Department and Truck Driver - left in June 4, 1965.
6. Trailways - April 4, 1965 - Continental Trailways Freight Agent to present.

DAVID P. LEWIS, JR.

ST. MAY 1964
**Funerals
 Air Cras**

SLIDELL — Funeral services were scheduled here at 2 p.m. today for Hugh Ward, pilot of the charter plane which crashed in Mexico Friday killing former New Orleans Mayor ~~de la~~ ^{de la} Morrison, his younger son and five others.

The funeral, at Poole Funeral Home, marked the last of three services for Louisiana residents who died with Morrison.

In Palm Beach, Fla., rites were scheduled this morning for Mrs. Carolyn Vandergrift and her son, Christopher, 7, who were also killed in the crash.

This morning, Daleigh Pellegrin, 47, Montegut, was buried at Sacred Heart Catholic Church cemetery in Montegut following religious rites at the church at 9 a.m. Pellegrin was an employee of Ovide J. Cenac, Houma, who also died in the Mexican crash.

Cenac, 59, was buried yesterday in 11 a.m. services at St. Frances de Sales Catholic Church in Houma, followed by interment in the church mausoleum.

A close friend of Morrison, Cenac headed a towing firm in Houma.

Ward, a former active civic worker in Slidell and chairman of Slidell's Junior Chamber of Commerce Miss America pageant, had recently accepted a job with the charter plane company from which Morrison rented the crashed plane.

He was to be buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery here. Survivors include his wife and two daughters, Gina, 2, and Cindy, 3 months, all of Corpus Christi, Tex.; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Ward, Slidell, and a sister, Mrs. Jerry Coffin, New Jersey.

Cenac's survivors include his wife, the former Eugene Robert; two sons, Clark and Arlen Cenac, both of Houma; four brothers, Arthur, Alfred, Wilfred and Ernest Cenac; six sisters, Mrs. Lydia Watkins, Miss Urcille Cenac, Mrs. Louise Delatte, Mrs. Cecille Guidry, Mrs. Odette Wurzlau and Mrs. Annette Brown, and 11 grandchildren.

Pellegrin is survived by his wife, the former Dolores Dugas of Montegut; three daughters, Mrs. Wayne Lirette, Montegut, Miss Connie Pellegrin, a student at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, and Miss Brenda Pellegrin, a freshman at South Terrebonne High School in Houma; one brother, Nolan Pellegrin of Montegut.

*Ward from St. Bernard Parish, was ca. 1963
 + 4 airplanes from Aug. 1, 1963*

*O.J. Cenac was on trip to Pan Am
 1961. International plane was behind the trip # 44*

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

DECEMBER 29, 1966

STATEMENT OF: JOSEPH A. OSTER, WM, age 38
RESIDING AT: 809 Audubon
TELEPHONE NO. 525-4205

S T A T E M E N T

In about 1956, Guy Banister and I went in business together in the private investigating firm known as Guy Banister and Associates, Inc. At that time, we were in the Balter Building on St. Charles Street in New Orleans. During the course of time I was in business with Banister, I met Jack Martin and others.

Subsequently, I left Banister and formed my own corporation in 1958. It was known as Southern Research Company, Inc. now Joseph A. Oster and Associates, Inc.

During the time I was in business with Banister, I had occasion to visit his home on Argonne Blvd. At that time, Banister had to my knowledge a number of rifles and also a 357 Magnum. I can vaguely remember that he had a .30 caliber bolt action rifle also a shotgun, also, an over and under, I don't know what caliber. The .30 caliber bolt action had a telescopic sight. I know Banister carried a 357 magnum with gold initials (I think the initials were WGB). What happened to these guns, I don't know.

During the course of my friendship with Banister, from the middle of '62 to the end of '63, I met Joe Newbrough, Bill Minski, Delphene Roberts and Jack Martin, I was also introduced to Dave Ferrie and two Cuban exiles. I don't remember their names. One I know was employed in the Audubon Building for an engineering firm on the 5th floor. He was tall, thin, dark hair, (Jorge Ramirez - engineer for Warren Moses - 524-1277), and I vaguely remember he was a draftsman or some kind of engineer. He was approximately 30 to 32 years old. At the time I met them, they were driving an old Ford. The other Cuban was short, stocky, moustache and appeared to be highly educated. He was about 45 years old. When Banister introduced me to them, he told me they were Cuban exiles and had been run out of Cuba by Castro. He also told me they were the heads of some kind of exile movement here in New Orleans, and they were trying to get some kind of program started.

I remember one time Banister was telling me about some automobile parts and heavy equipment being sent to Cuba in violation of a State Department band against the export of equipment to Cuba. He was investigating it for somebody. This comes in somewhere, I don't remember exactly where. He told me he had pictures of this stuff and mentioned the name of the wharf where it was. He also told me he could take me and show me other equipment that was going to Cuba. I remember he told me that he had pictures of this equipment but I don't remember if he told me Newbrough did take them or was going to take them. He called and asked me about a camera, but I didn't have the kind he wanted. So, the next time I saw him, Newbrough was in the office along with Martin, Dave Ferrie, and Dave Lewis. Delphene Roberts was the secretary. Bill Minski was in the other room. This was on Lafayette Street. We went around to the restaurant and Newbrough told me he had taken some pictures for Banister. What they were, I don't know. I think Newbrough or Martin mentioned jeeps to me.

Subsequently, I ran into one of the Cubans I was introduced to in Banister's Office in my own office building, and I would see him coming in and out of the elevator, and I asked him if he had seen Banister and he said, "No, I'm not fooling with that anymore." I haven't seen this Cuban for about four months now. This particular unknown Cuban was watching Oswald pass out these pamphlets in front of Maison Blanche, Kress, and the Audubon Building.

I remember also that Anna Burglass was also in and out of Banister's office during this same period.

JOSEPH A. OSTER

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF ORLEANS

December 19, 1966

STATEMENT OF: JOSEPH S. NEWBROUGH, JR.
RESIDING AT: 932 Louisiana Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana
RE: DAVID FERRIE

S T A T E M E N T

As an employee, associate, and investigator with Guy Banister, I met David Ferrie who at the time was charged with sodomy or perhaps some other homosexual charge. Ferrie was in Banister's office daily for several months. As a client, he engaged Banister to gather evidence in his defense for these charges in Orleans Parish and in Jefferson. He became friendly with J. S. Martin, Sr., whom I had formerly worked with as a private investigator. Ferrie had all mannerisms of a person with a psychological maladjustment. Physically the most striking thing about the man was that he had lost all of the hair on his head including his eyebrows. In order to cover up this fact, he wore theatrical makeup including crepe hair on his head and eyebrows. He stated on numerous occasions that his hair was lost by his experimentation with radioactive material. I have heard two other explanations. One, that he lost his hair in a dynamite explosion while prospecting for gold in Latin America. Two, that he had his hair removed purposely in order to get fired from Eastern Airlines and then to sue Eastern Airlines for firing him.

Ferrie began as a clerk in the law office of G. Wray Gill with his own desk, telephone, etc. He did legal research for Gill and claimed to do investigative work. He frequented all Courts in the New Orleans area and I have heard that on one

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Guy-
working to
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occasion, Gill sent Ferrie to Washington to discuss a case with an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Ferrie practiced the Roman Catholic religion and was extremely knowledgeable in Catholic Canonical Law, but in the writer's opinion he was carried away to the point that he believed himself to be a saint and had such beliefs that he could cause the appearance of saints, demons, etc. I am of the opinion that J. S. Martin put him in contact with a pseudo Orthodox Bishop named Stanley in Louisville, Kentucky, and that Ferrie went to Louisville and was consecrated a Bishop in this Church. In comment, these Bishops scattered throughout the country have no churches, no priests, deacons or congregation. They are self-styled bishops recognized by none but each other.

David Ferrie having been a pilot for Eastern Airlines and was dismissed from that duty upon homosexual charges being filed against him, carried on various business activities involving flying, including charter work and flight instruction. At one time, he operated a Gulf filling station on the river side of Veterans Hwy. one block toward Baton Rouge from Metairie Court. I had heard that Carlos Marcello, whom Ferrie had become friendly with had financed this filling station. I have also heard that Ferrie was a confidant of Marcello and a legal advisor. At one time, Guy Banister did some investigation work for Marcello. I think that this case was referred to Banister by G. Wray Gill. I do not think that David Ferrie or Jack Martin did any investigative work on this case nor did I to my knowledge. Though, I may have been assigned some phase of the investigation not knowing what it involved. This method of operation was typical of Banister and this writer feels that no one knew all of Banister's business dealings.

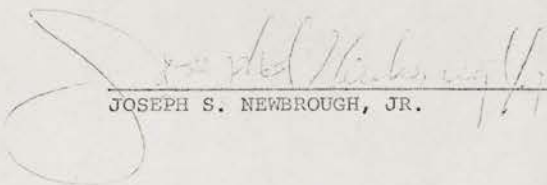
I understand that Ferrie has a godson named "Brownley" whom I do not remember meeting but may have. To my personal knowledge I have never meet Lee Harvey Oswald nor do I think David Ferrie had met him but Ferrie is a linguish speaking Spanish fluently as well as other languages and in that Ferrie knew a number of people connected with the Cuban Freedom Movement in New Orleans perhaps he did meet Oswald. I am under the opinion that Ferrie is capable of almost anything though I do not believe that he is sufficiently politically rabid to perpetrate a crime against the United States. It is further my opinion that Jack Martin and Typathy toward Ferrie could cause him to imagine all types of crimes that Ferrie might take part in. I have no personal knowledge of any crime committed by Ferrie though He did ask me at one time to sign a false statement to the effect that he had personally witnessed a teenager habituating homosexual hangouts. I was informed by Ferrie that ^{This person is a} he was the subject of one of the homosexual charges filed against him either in Orleans or Jefferson Parish and I feel that this boy had formerly been in Ferrie's Civil Air Patrol Unit. When I refused this I have heard that Ferrie sought out others to do the same thing. I do not know why Martin dislikes Ferrie but I think that it is chiefly due to the fact that Ferrie accurately described Martin's personality, habits, and living conditions to some of Martin's phony bishops. Jeck Martin to my knowledge has no current regular income other than his wife's salary. He spends most of his time at home painting pictures and on frequent occasions goes to the corner pub in order to become crocked out of his mind on four bottles of beer. I do not personally have any faith in anything that Jack Martin says regarding

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anyone that is currently on Jack Martin "hate" list.

I understand that a local leader of the Anti-Castro
Cubans at one time had an office in the Newman Building and
was friendly with Banister. I do not recall meeting the man
though I probably did if he was around for any length of time.

The above statement is made to the best of my
knowledge and of my own free will.


JOSEPH S. NEWBROUGH, JR.

bb

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA

JANUARY 19, 1967

STATEMENT OF: DELPHINE ROBERTS, WF, Secretary to the late
Guy Banister and Treasurer of Guy Banister
and Associates, Inc.

RESIDING AT: 6569 Wuerpel

TELEPHONE NO.: 482-6413

I was associated with Guy Banister starting around March, 1962 in the capacity of a confidential secretary. Later he trained me to be an executive and I was officially the Treasurer of Guy Banister and Associates, Inc. up until the time of his death, June 6, 1964. During the time of my association with Mr. Banister's Office I had occasion to be introduced to about six Cubans who were interested in overthrowing Castro, that is how he introduced us. They went into Mr. Banister's office and closed the door and conversation took place, but I didn't listen, I was busy so I don't know exactly what took place. Later I had occasion to see the same men. At that time there were ten in an office in the Balter Building either the second or third floor. The least expensive office - either \$25 a week or month rent. As I passed this office going in the direction of Camp Street, the office was on the right hand side. I was on the verge of entering Richard's Office (I don't recall his last name. He was from Honduras not a naturalized citizen from what I understand). At this time he was in the export business and his work carried him down to Honduras and Guatemala quite frequently. When I reached the entrance of his office I was surprised to see these same men sitting in this office I had met earlier in Mr. Banister's office. They seemed surprised to see me and to know that I knew Richard. I called Richard's name aloud and he poked his head around the door. He was sitting at his desk, back to the hall, and asked me to see him at another time so I left. I did not see him until sometime later I ran into him unexpectedly on the street and that was around Whitney Bank on St. Charles at Gravier turning toward Camp Street. I was walking with Mr. James Murphy and Richard approached me asking to speak a moment to me. My escort was uneasy about it because of the man's general condition. He looked like a tramp, some people may have called him a wino, but he wasn't, and he told me he had been beaten up by these people connected with the Communist movement who were smuggling. Now, they were the same ones that were connected with the people who put up the money for him to establish a business here, - export - import. I think that business was a front.

He told me that he was beaten and left for dead and as a result was sickly and was now at the Ozanam Inn located in the 800 block of Camp Street and had been standing in a bread line for food. This is the same Richard who once sold tickets for an airline at Moisant Airport---The airline that had travel service into Central America. I saw him two more times after that and similar instances occurred but each time I saw him, he was in a worse condition and in fear for his life.

Question by Det. Loisel: How long has it been since you have seen him?

Answer: Before Banister's death. I don't know if he is living or dead.

Question by Det. Loisel: Go back to Hugh Ward -

Answer: Now deceased - Hugh Ward was an associate of Guy Banister and Associates. I think he was the one who was treasurer as a convenience and owned one share of Banister and Associates. He was not on the payroll, but he did come occasionally into the office. On one such occasion he mentioned to me that he had smuggled guns into Cuba to help with the overthrow of Castro.

Question by Det. Loisel: What about Banister knowing about both sides?

Answer: Mr. Banister had many different characters in and out of the office, not on the payroll. Many claimed to be private investigators. Others just were interested in giving him information knowing of his former connection with the FBI. His advice was sought at times and given sometimes in return for information or sometimes in form of a fee. Mr. Banister was connected with people associated with both the conservative element as well as the Communist element or "Left Wing". He often told me being in the type work he was - security - you rub shoulders with all kinds of characters in order to be able to get information from both sides. It was by this means he was abreast of everything taking place in and out of the country. He received information from all over. This is why his files were so huge. We received many long distance calls too. He belonged to a world wide Intelligence network to receive information from all areas.

Question by Det. Loisel: Let's go to the movement of the files.

Answer: Mr. Banister found rent a burden at 531 Lafayette Street and due to the fact that much money was owed him, he was unable to collect, he was in financial difficulty. Because he was unable to cover payment in advance on the rent in the Newman Building, the landlord, Sam Newman, who was pressing him constantly to make the payments on time, asked him to give up the office. We had been office hunting for another place but one night my mother suggested that he move his office to our house and occupy the den and basement. Mr. Banister had decided to do this and was not only in the process of reorganizing the company but had begun a physical movement of his paraphernalia and had moved some of his files to 6569 Wuerpel Street. On the day of his unexpected death, June 6, he was to have picked me up at my home and we were to start transferring his files and library to my house. He had already had part of the library there and had brought a few things to the house. These things are still there. When Mr. Banister failed to come, and I had waiting quite sometime,

after discussing things with my mother, on her advice I caught the bus and went to his apartment on Moss Street where I saw him laying on the bed. After being unable to arouse him, I left and got into the automobile, having the key to the car, a 1950 Chevrolet which having instructions from him to use the car when needed, I drove to the nearest public phone to call my mother. The phone was located on Dumaine and Carrollton. My mother upon learning what I had seen - him lying on the bed, advised me not to attempt to enter, being a graduate trained nurse of Charity Hospital, and from the description I had given her, she told me he might be dead and in the event he was, for my own protection to call his good friends, Becky and Bill Nitchski. I did but they were not home. She had told us a few days earlier that their boys were flying in from Nevada and they were going to get them at the airport so I decided to go to the airport in case they came in the meantime. Since they were not there I went to their house thinking that they would be on the way and would arrive when I did. Upon finding them not home, I wrote a note telling them that I feared something serious had happened to Guy and please come immediately that I would be waiting for them at his apartment. On my return I stopped again at the same phone thinking that by chance they may have arrived at home. The phone was ringing as they were entering the house and while one was answering the phone, the other was reading the note I left. They said they would come immediately. I drove back to Guy's apartment and waited. We tried to arouse him and were unable to do so. Bill Nitchski then decided to use a crowbar from his car and break open the door. We went in and I wanted to turn him over and see if we could revive him, and I was about to do so when Bill said, "Don't touch him, he is dead." Unbeknown to me he had felt his feet and he recognized death on the touch. He was laying on the bed on his stomach with only a pair of shorts on. His head was on a pillow on the left cheek and in his right hand he was clutching a bath towel. It looked like he was sleeping and I didn't think he was dead. Then immediately Mr. Nitchski phoned the police and reported that we had found him dead in his apartment on Moss Street. We were hardly in when we were out because Bill said it was most important not to disturb anything especially his body in the event that foul play had taken place and there may have been a knife or bullet found. We waited on the outside until the police came within minutes. I never went back in the apartment and I didn't see Bill go back in, I know Becky didn't.

Question by Det. Loisel: At a later date you knew Mrs. Banister sold - - -

Answer: Mr. Banister had often told me in the event anything happened to him to go immediately to the office and take with me the Code or key to the Index file and also to get my own personal belongings. As soon as I did this, I was to leave as soon as I was able. Naturally, being upset (we were to have been married upon his final divorce) I may have taken longer than I should have because I was unable to see as clearly because I had so many tears in my eyes.

Later I learned the office was padlocked against me due to the fact that his wife, Mary Banister, resented me because I was treasurer of the company and she didn't want me to enter the office for fear I would take the files.

She called me on the phone several times and accused me of stealing things from the office including the automobile which unbeknown to me had the title transferred to my name. Through a friend, Mrs. Fred A. Huff, I learned she had taken many of the files to her house. Not long afterwards, Mary Banister phoned me and told me she had the files and that I would never get them, that she was burning most of the Communist files. I made arrangements with Mrs. Huff to contact Mrs. Banister and buy the files from her unbeknown to Mary Banister that they were to be for me. Mrs. Huff paid her a visit one evening and offered to buy the files. Mrs. Banister told her she had burned many already and was going to burn some more. Mrs. Huff asked her if she knew what she was doing, that the information was very valuable. Mrs. Huff left and later I passed Mary Banister's house on Argonne Street and saw smoke coming from the trash burner in the yard. I passed in the service alley behind the yard and saw flames and knew Mary Banister was carrying through her threat. I saw her out there putting things in it. I also learned later that the landlord, Sam Newman, had some of the files. One day I had a phone call from Mr. James Arthurs who lived in the Newman Building and who often came into the office and carried out the trash for Mr. Banister. Mr. Arthurs told me over the phone with tears in his voice that many of Mr. Banister's files, notes, and information had been thrown into the alleyway and on the sidewalk and were blowing around in the wind. He picked up a few things and asked me to come for them. I believe I still have these things. Not having the heart to go through them, I just left them there. He may have a few himself whether he does or not, I don't know. Meantime Mary Banister learning that I was interested in owning Mr. Banister's library and holding it together and carrying out his wishes to set up a memorial in his name, sold some of his library to Kent Courtney for \$1.00 a book, I understand.

While interviewed, I was shown several pictures and identified one as Dave Perrie, who was a most peculiar character having been burned, he wears a wig which looks like moss and false eyebrows and eyelashes. He was well educated and from what I understand studied for the priesthood. He does know how to draw up a brief and conduct the needed research. He has worked for some lawyers in this capacity. He was in and out of the office at times to seek opinions and comments from Guy Banister pertaining to a brief. He was not at any time on the payroll.

Another character, one who called himself at times "Reverand" and also a private investigator, came in and out of the office to give so called information to Mr. Banister. Whether it was of any value to anything, I do not know because the files were very extensive. Mr. Banister always accepted any and all information from all kinds of people. This man's name was Jack Martin.

Joe Newbrough was another so called private investigator who did a likewise job of bringing in information. He was not on the payroll either.

I also identified the picture of Celso M. Hernandez as being in the office and I believe Mr. Banister had his picture in the files.

I would also like to mention that I remember the name Sergio Archaca Smith's name being in the file.

Question by Det. Ivon: What about Carlos Corega?

Answer: I don't recall that name.

I would also like to add I know Mr. Banister did not owe any 15 month's rent.

Question: What about George Rodriguez?

Answer: I know we had a Rodriguez. I am trying to recall. I believe that name was in that file. I would say it was in there.

Question: What about Manuel Gonzales?

Answer: That name was in there.

Question: Miguel Torres?

Answer: Torres was in there.

Question: Emilio Santana?

Answer: There was a Santana but I don't recall the first name.

Question: Morris Brownlee?

Answer: I don't recall that name.

Question: Has any body else shown you any photographs or talked to you about this subject?

Answer: No, Mr. Nitchski mentioned that you were interested in finding out what I knew about the files, where they were, did I have any.

Question: The FBI never interviewed you?

Answer: No

Question: What about the Internal Revenue confiscating Mr. Banister's files and furniture, did they talk to you?

Answer: No, they didn't take his files nor his furniture. They didn't take anything out of his office. All the office furniture was there - the typewriters.

Question: You were working for him in '63.

Answer: Yes, they never touched any of his files or his furniture.

Question: Did Mr. Banister own a gun?

Answer: He had quite a lot of guns and ammunition in his house. Sometimes he had a gun on him. I don't know what it was.

Question: Besides the one he wore, did he have any other guns?

Answer: Yes, he had them on his wall in his library.

Question: Rifles or pistols?

Answer: Long rifles, some were in his apartment.

Question: What about the psychiatrist?

Answer: Mary Banister talked to a psychiatrist at Baptist Hospital and wanted Mr. Banister to take treatment. The doctor knew him and called Mr. Banister on the phone. Meantime, Mr. Banister told me to listen in on the conversation so when he signaled me, I listened in and heard the doctor tell him there was nothing wrong with him but she needed treatment and by all means get away from her and try to get her to go back to Monroe, Louisiana.

M E M O R A N D U M

January 19, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FROM: SGT. F. SEDGEBEER and DET. C. JONAU

RE: SPECIAL INVESTIGATION - SHIRLEY BASILE, W/F, Age 25
2833 St. Charles Avenue

In reference to your instructions on first memorandum dated January 6, 1967, Miss Basile was asked by investigators how she knew that Banister did some work for Lincoln Rockwell. She stated that she remembered there was a file on Lincoln Rockwell and she was under the impression that Banister was doing some type of work for him. The nature of the work was unknown to her. She said that Mr. Banister was a staunch conservative. As far as feelings for J. F. K., she didn't really know.

She has never seen Rockwell or anyone connected with the American Natzi Party while she was employed with Banister. Someone could have come in who belonged to that organization, but she wouldn't have known it.

Miss Basile stated that she remembers Sergio or Acacha Smith from coming into Banister's office. She said that Mr. Banister was doing some work for him but doesn't know what type of work he was doing. She had no access to his files. This was in 1961. She stated she might be able to identify Smith from a photo, she is not really sure.

In reference to Hugh Ward she states that Mr. Banister hired Hugh Ward, a real young fellow who worked mostly on domestic cases such as divorces and separations, while she was employed there. He worked there six to eight months. She states that Hugh Ward lived in Covington and commuted back and forth.

In reference to Cosmos Shipping Company investigators stopped there and spoke to Mr. Artego who is a white male possibly 21 years of age who stated that Cosmos Shipping Company operates out of New Orleans, New York, and Chicago. They are an import-export company. Mr. Artego further stated that Manuel Gonzales might have worked in the New York or Chicago office but he has never worked in the New Orleans branch.

SGT. F. SEDGEBEER

DET. C. JONAU

M E M O R A N D U M

January 31, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON
FROM: LESTER OTILLIO
RE: VERNON G. GERDES, WM, 43 YEARS OLD
RESIDING AT 1207 CONSTANTINOPLE
TELEPHONE NO. TW5-6815

The following questions are by Officers Jonau and Otillio assigned to the District Attorney's Office on January 29, 1967:

Q. What was the date you first started to work for Guy Banister?

A. About 1957 in the Balter Building.

Q. How long did you work for Guy Banister?

A. I would say less than a year.

Q. Did you ever work in Banister's Lafayette office?

A. No, but I met him there for dinner quite often - two or three times a month.

Q. Do you know Dave Ferrie?

A. Yes, slightly. I have seen him around the office a few times and we met him at Domino's Restaurant one time for lunch. Banister was handling a case for him. Something to do with the airlines.

Q. Were you and Banister aware that Ferrie was a homosexual?

A. I didn't, but I guess that is what Banister was working on for Ferrie in regard to the airline.

Q. Have you ever seen any Cubans in Banister's Office with Ferrie?

A. No, not that I can remember. Banister was friends with one Cuban, a Dr. DeHoar.

Q. When you were in the Balter Building were there any Cuban organizations in the same building and do you recall anything about these organizations?

A. I can vaguely remember something about some kind of Cuban organization on Common Street. I don't know anything about it.

Q. Have you ever seen Lee Harvey Oswald?

A. No, not in connection with Banister. He lived a few doors from my wife's grandmother.

Q. Do you remember when you worked for Banister who else was employed by him?

A. No, I took Joe Oster's place, however, there was a tall boy who used to jump from airplanes. I don't remember his name. He left town in 1958 or '59.

Q. Do you know Arcacha Smith?

A. Name is familiar but I can't place him.

Q. Do you know who else worked on Ferry's case?

A. Don't know, but Hugh Ward was involved.

Q. What was your opinion of Banister as a man, politically and otherwise?

A. I think he had to get permission from his wife before he made a move

Q. Do you think Banister was a radical?

A. No, he wasn't a radical but he did hate Communism with a passion.

Q. Have you ever seen Lincoln Rockwell?

A. Yes, in Banister's office once. Delphine Roberts and I waited outside.

Q. Who was Delphine Roberts?

A. Delphine Roberts was Banister's girlfriend. I believe that they had an affair going because Banister once spoke of divorce from his wife.

Q. You know where Delphine Roberts lives now?

A. No, but I knew she lived on the lakefront area.

Q. What kind of person was Delphine Roberts?

A. Radical, Way out, I think she was a nut.

Q. Do you know if Banister had anything to do with a Cuban organization?

A. Not that I know of. One thing that might help is that Delphine Roberts went into Banister's office right after his death and removed some files. She was supposed to have brought them to G. Wray Gill's office.

Q. Where did you get this information?

A. It may have come from Jack. I really don't know who it came from for sure. Wait!!! I think it was a guy named Bob Guzmann. He is a contractor.

Q. When did he tell you this?

A. Within a few months after Banister died. I think Guzmann can tell you a lot more. He also is supposed to be a game warden.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ORLEANS

DATE: 1/28/68
TIME: 10:50 A.M.

INTERVIEW OF: MRS. LOUISE DECKER
7809 Airline Highway
Telephone: 721-7681

EMPLOYED BY: KELLY GIRL SERVICE

BY: DETECTIVE DOUGLAS WARD

During the interview with MRS. DECKER she told Detective Ward that she had met GUY BANISTER in 1959 through a friend of hers by the name of MRS. HUGH WARD

MRS. DECKER stated that GUY BANISTER never gave her any indication that he was anything but a gentleman.

MRS. DECKER stated that she was out of work during the month of October 1961 and that she had run into MRS. WARD who told her that GUY BANISTER was looking for a secretary.

MRS. DECKER said she contacted GUY BANISTER at his office and he told her he was looking for a secretary and if she wanted the job to come in and see him.

MRS. DECKER started working for GUY BANISTER the third week in October 1961 and worked for him through January 1962.

MRS. DECKER told Detective Ward that her job consisted mostly of cutting clippings from newspapers and magazines which contained articles about racial problems throughout the country, and articles about Communism. BANISTER was a fanatic on these two subjects.

MRS. DECKER also stated that she had once seen some of BANISTER's files in which the names of numerous political persons and influential persons' names were mentioned. MRS. DECKER further stated that she thought if these files fell into the wrong hands they could be used to blackmail some of these persons mentioned in them.

When asked about some of the people who came in to see BANISTER (Cubans as well as Americans) she mentioned the following names:

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. | Jack Martin | 7. | Sergio Arcacha |
| 2. | Dave Ferrie | | Smith |
| 3. | Joe Newborough | 8. | Bill Nietschke |
| 4. | Joe Oster | 9. | Eugene Dooling |
| 5. | Vernon Geddis | 10. | Mary Banister |
| 6. | Carlos Quivero | 11. | Delphine Roberts |
| | (possibly Quiroga) | | |

When questioned about the aforementioned list of persons, MRS. DECKER gave the following account:

1. JACK MARTIN:

A friend of GUY BANISTER as well as a business associate. MRS. DECKER's feelings were that MARTIN was a would-be investigator. However, BANISTER had warned her that MARTIN was the type of man to be afraid of. On November 23, 1963 MARTIN pulled a gun on BANISTER in his office and threatened to kill him over some words about the assassination of President Kennedy. MRS. DECKER stated that she had been told about the above-mentioned incident a couple of weeks after it happened by VERNON GEDDES.

2. DAVE FERRIE:

Had come into the office (BANISTER's office) with JACK MARTIN and two Cubans. Assisted Cubans in organization. DAVE FERRIE was a sympathizer with the Cubans and their cause. FERRIE was alleged to have helped them (the Cubans) campaign for funds, etc.

3. JOE NEWBOROUGH:

Was also a friend as well as a business associate of BANISTER and was in the office often. There is little else known about him.

4. JOE OSTER:

A business associate who MRS. DECKER felt was trying to take over BANISTER's business. OSTER was also to have worked with BANISTER from time to time, and had money invested in BANISTER's business.

5. VERNON GEDDES:

MRS. DECKER stated GEDDES was a friend and business associate of BANISTER and that she felt he would be a good man to talk to about BANISTER's files, as he would know more than anyone else. Could not give many details.

6. CARLOS QUIVERO: (possibly QUIROGA)

7. SERGIO ARCACHA SMITH:

These two had come in with FERRIE. MRS. DECKER did not know much about these two persons. Only in their company a short time. She only knew them as being friends of FERRIE.

8. BILL NIETSCHKE:

An ex-FBI agent retired. Came to New Orleans in December 1961 from Reno, Nevada as a partner in the business with BANISTER. NIETSCHKE did not like MRS. DECKER. He felt she had told BANISTER that he was trying to take over the business.

9. FUGENE DOOLING:

Obviously a con-man who had assumed the rank of Colonel and formed the Louisiana Private Patrol. DOOLING was in the office often and was one of BANISTER's closer friends.

10. MARY BANISTER:

EX-wife of GUY BANISTER. Little known about her other than she was a straightforward, sometimes overbearing person.

11. DELPHINE ROBERTS:

DELPINE was alleged to be very intimate with BANISTER as well as being a firm backer to him in his work. MRS. ROBERTS was in and out of the office on many occasions.

NOTE: (Memo dated December 29 from Ward mentions DELPHINE ROBERTS as the person having found BANISTER dead in his apartment and having removed some material from his apartment at that time. Also, several days later returned and removed more material)

MRS. DECKER further stated that BANISTER had been far behind in the payment of his rent for the office, and that soon after his death the landlord of the building had seized some of his furnishings and material as payment of the delinquent account. (The office building was located at 531 Lafayette Street) MRS. DECKER further stated that BANISTER never discussed business with her.

MRS. DECKER said that if she could think of anything that might be of any importance to us she would call, or should we want to ask her any more questions she would be more than glad to answer any and all questions and offered her assistance in any way possible.

MEMORANDUM

January 23, 1967

TO: JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FROM: F. SEDGEBEER AND CLEM NIEDERMIER

RE: INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT OF DAVE LEWIS

On Monday, January 23, 1967, the undersigned were requested to interrogate subjects in regard to Dave Lewis' statement.

We proceeded to Trailways Bus Terminal located on Tulane Avenue and interviewed Dave Lewis who told the same story as he did Friday, January 20, 1967, to Louis Ivon. Additional information in regard to the automobile was given by Lewis which as follows: '61 Ford, dark green in very good condition, semi-tinted windows, radio antenna on driver's side with a tear-drop ornament on top of same. On the rear was a Bolton Ford emblem.

Harry Lee, a fellow employee of Dave Lewis, was interviewed, and he stated that about 4:45 P. M., Friday January 20, 1967, he received a telephone call from Lewis wherein Lewis explained that he would be late in returning, apologized for having to run late, and that he would catch a bus.

Louis Renfro, immediate supervisor of Lewis, stated that Lee didn't get in touch with him about running late, however, he expected Lewis back to work for 3:30 P. M. in order to let Harry Lee leave early.

Mrs. Mary Alexander, day manager of Cafe DuMonde, located in the French Quarter, was interviewed in regard to Al Perryman. Mrs. Alexander stated that Perryman had worked for them for three days, December 10, 11, and 12 of 1966, and has never returned to work since that day. Mrs. Alexander gave us no additional information as to his whereabouts except that he was employed as a dishwasher.

An attempt was made to interview Kay Rau residing at 606 Bienville Street, Apartment "D", however, Miss Rau had moved on Friday, January 20, 1967, at about 2 P. M. The officers interviewed Miss Vicki Ledbetter who is presently residing in the apartment and who had moved in the same day that Kay Rau had moved out. Miss Ledbetter stated that there were two men helping Miss Rau move and that their names were Jack and Dave. Jack and Miss Rau left about 2:30 P. M. and Dave left approximately 15 minutes later.

F. SEDGEBEER

C. NIEDERMIER

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F. SEDGEBEER

C. NIEDERMIER

On the evening of 1-20-47 I was passing
down St Louis St toward Charleston St
when I reached that corner I made a
turn toward Canal St. by the old court
house.

I made approximately 15 to 20
paces in that direction when a dark
green 41 or 42 Ford coupe showed
up near me.

A dark complexioned man 25 to 32
years of age shouted at me "Hay
come". I turned in answer to
his call.

He was facing me with his
left hand on the steering wheel
of the car. In his right hand
was a small revolver which
he fired at me.

It seemed to me that
as he pulled the trigger of the
pistol he accelerated his car in
order to escape.

At this point I was paralyzed
in fear so I could not get a
positive number of the car or
any distinctive markings which could
identify some car.

When I regained my ~~common~~
senses enough to realize what I
was doing I proceeded at a
fast pace to the residence of
a friend of mine at 605
Greenwood where I reported
the crime from the West Union
Office.

The man driving the 61 Ford
was of medium build 28 to
32 years of age Black or Dark
Brown Hair medium cut.

He was dressed in a dark
brown checked sport coat and
completely a sport shirt.

His facial features are average
~~with a slight curve~~ neither
round faced or thin.

I guess he might be of
medium build 140-150 pounds
according to his upper build.

Daniel T. Lenz Jr.
1-22-67